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NORTH WALSHAM URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

REPORT OF

THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE

YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31ST 1948

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The Chairman and Members of the North Walsham Urban District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the year ending December 31st, 1948.

The preparation of this report has been delayed, as it concerns the period of office of my two predecessors; and for the same reason it is not practicable to attempt more than an account of the principal features of the year in question and a statistical survey.

Dr. T. H. McLeod was Medical Officer of Health from the beginning of the year until February 29th, and Dr. W.S.Parker for the remainder of the year.

Principal Events of the Year. - The National Health Service Act 1946 came into operation on July 5th, 1948. This far-reaching measure caused comparatively little change in the Public Health responsibilities of the Urban District Council, or in its day-to-day activities. Its repercussions, however, inevitably affected all departments dealing with the Nation's Health. Diphtheria Immunisation, until this date the responsibility of the Urban District Council, was transferred to the County Council.

The County Council was affected more than the District Councils. Its Hospitals were taken over by the Regional Hospitals Board, but many new duties were imposed on it. To enable these to be performed, some of its Public Health functions were decentralised to newly created Area Offices. Nine of these were established in the County, North Walsham being served by Area No. 2 Office, situated at Cromer.

Outside Local Government, we find the General Practitioner and Hospital Services largely under the control of the State. Free examination were made available to all who desired them. Visits were paid during the year by officials of the Local Government Boundary Commission. No report had been made by the end of the year.

Weather. The Spring was warm and fine, the Summer dull and the Autumn very mild. The year as a whole was exceptionally dry.

General. North Walsham is built on a hill, and lies in the midst of thriving agricultural country about five miles from the sea. It has the advantage of a sand and gravel subsoil which favours the drainage of surface water.

General Statistics.

Area in acres - 4,252.

Population (Registrar General's estimate) - 4539

Number of inhabited houses - 15391

Rateable Value at end of year - £23,240. 0. 0.

Vital Statistics. The numbers presented are in most cases small, and too much attention should not be paid to chance variations.

(A) <u>Births.</u>		Male	Female	Total
(1)	Live Births-legitimate	40	29	69
	Illegitimate	2	3	5
	Total.	42	32	74

The Birth Rate was 16.3 per 1,000 of the estimated population (E & W 17.9) 6.75% of Live Births were

(2)	Still Births-Logitimate	2	-	2
	Illegitimate.	-	-	-
	Total	2	-	2

The Still Birth Rate was 2.63% of all Births.

(B) Death Rate. The Death Rate was 13.2 per 1,000 of the estimated population (England & Wales 10.8)

(C) Maternal Mortality. No maternal Death consequent on childbirth was reported during the year.

(D) Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age.

	Legitimate.	3	1	4
	Illegitimate.	-	-	-
	Total.	3	1	4

This represents a Rate of 0.89 per 1,000 of the estimated population.

(E) <u>Causes of Death.</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Whooping Cough.	1	-	1
Tuberculosis.	-	1	1
Cancer.	4	3	7
Diabetes.	-	2	2
Cerebral Haemorrhage.	4	3	7
Heart Disease.	9	6	15
Othr Diseases of circulatory system.	4	3	7
Bronchitis.	1	1	2
Other respiratory diseases	-	3	3
Birth Injuries	1	1	2
Road traffic accidents.	-	1	1
all other causes.	4	8	12
	<u>28</u>	<u>32</u>	<u>60</u>

Notifications of Infectious Diseases.

	<u>Under 1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>25 & over</u>	<u>unknown.</u>
Measles.		4	6	11	1	1	1	25.
Whooping Cough.	1	4	1	10				16.
Puerperal pyrexia							1	1.
C.S.F.				1				1.
TOTAL.	1	8	7	22	1	1	2	43.

No case of Poliomyelitis was reported.

TUBERCULOSIS

<u>Cases on Register</u>	<u>Pulmonary</u>		<u>Non-Pulmonary</u>	
	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
1947	2	5	2	5
1948	3	6	2	5

dousing. In the present difficult times much ill-health is undoubtedly due to insufficient and unsuitable housing accommodation. Twenty-two houses were built by the Council in 1948.

Industry and Occupations. There is a large canning works in the town, and a laundry serving a wide area. Smaller concerns manufacture agricultural implements, fruit and vegetable growing give employment to many, as does the corn trade. The County town of Norwich is easily accessible by road and rail, and many residents work there.

Problem Families. A note about these may be of interest, since they have only recently been recognised as a social phenomenon. My attention has been drawn to them by Dr. Parker.

They present themselves as families whose standard of living is noticeably low, although they do not necessarily come from the lowest income groups. They are characterised by a generally irresponsible approach to life, and feckless conduct of their affairs. They are constantly in the public eye, whether from default of rent, neglect of their children, sanitary nuisance, or other cause. The essential sense that appears to be lacking is that of social responsibility. In some cases one or both of the parents are mentally subnormal, and in others illness or other cause has lowered their capacity to cope with the common problems of day-to-day life in the ordinary way. Fortunately, much can be done to help them with suitable guidance. Apart from human considerations, which must always come first, it is, in fact, an economy to do so, since they are forced by their incapacity to find for themselves to make full use of the welfare facilities provided by all departments of the Local Authority.

Water.

- (1) The water supply of the area has been satisfactory (a) in quality and (b) in quantity for domestic use. Restrictions on industrial supplies and car-washing had to be continued during the year.
- (11) Five bacteriological analyses of water as supplied were made during the year. The result in every way was "This sample is highly satisfactory). A complete bacteriological and chemical examination of the raw water was made under the Water Abstraction Regulations and a copy of this is attached.
- (111) The water is not liable to have plumbo-solvent action.
- (iv) There has been no contamination of the town supply, Two shallow wells at White Horse Common were found to be unsatisfactory and the owner was required to connect the town supply to the four houses concerned.
- (v)

Number of dwelling-houses supplied.	1410.
Number of population supplies.	4048.
(a) Direct to the house.	3826.
(b) By standpipe.	222.

Drainage & Sewerage.

New sewers were laid during the year in Grove Road and Norwich Road, and also on the People's Park Housing Estate. A Ministry of Health Inquiry was held in respect of the Council's proposals to carry out considerable extensions to the sewage disposal works; these proposals being subsequently approved.

Meat & other Foods.

Chilled meat came from the Ministry of Food Norwich cold storage Depot known as Westlegate. Approximately 95% of the home-killed meat came from the abattoir at Swardston and the remainder from the Cawston slaughter house. These sources of supply are outside the district and are operated by the Ministry of Food. Frequent inspections are made of the meat thus received but the only condemnation required in the year was in respect of lymphadenitis in 32lbs of one English fore-quarter of beef. As no slaughterhouse was in operation in the district no ante-mortem examinations were made. Frequent inspections were made of shops, stalls, vehicles and of places where food is prepared. Eight samples of ice-cream were sent to the Public Health Laboratory for analysis.

Food Poisoning. . There was no outbreak of food poisoning during the year.

In conclusion I must express my thanks to Mr. Morris for the invaluable help he has given in the preparation of this report.

I have the honour to be

Your obedient servant,

(Signed) J. H. F. Norbury, M.B., B.S.,
M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.,

Medical Officer of Health.

Local Health Office,
Norwich Road,
Cromer.



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THE WATER ABSTRACTION REGULATIONS 1947.

Results of analysis of a sample of water as under.

Source of sample: Well, North Walsham Waterworks, water as abstracted. Date of taking sample 12th April and 26th May 1948.

(a) Physical Examination:

Temperature at source,	°C. 11.7
colour	None
Appearance	small rusty sediment
Taste	Normal
Smell	"

(b) General Chemical Examination:

Parts per Million.

Reaction, pH	7.9	
Free Carbon Dioxide, as CO ₂	.....	23.1
Ammoniacal Nitrogen, as N	.....	0.08
Albuminoid Nitrogen, as N	.....	0.008
Nitrous Nitrogen, as N	.....	nil
Nitric Nitrogen as N	.....	nil
Hardness (soap test) as CaCO ₃		
Temporary	.....	165.6
Permanent	.....	83.0
Permanganate figure (4 hrs. 80°F.) as O	.....	0.19
Alkalinity, as CaCO ₃	.....	228.6
Total Solids	.....	505.0

(c) Mineral Analysis:

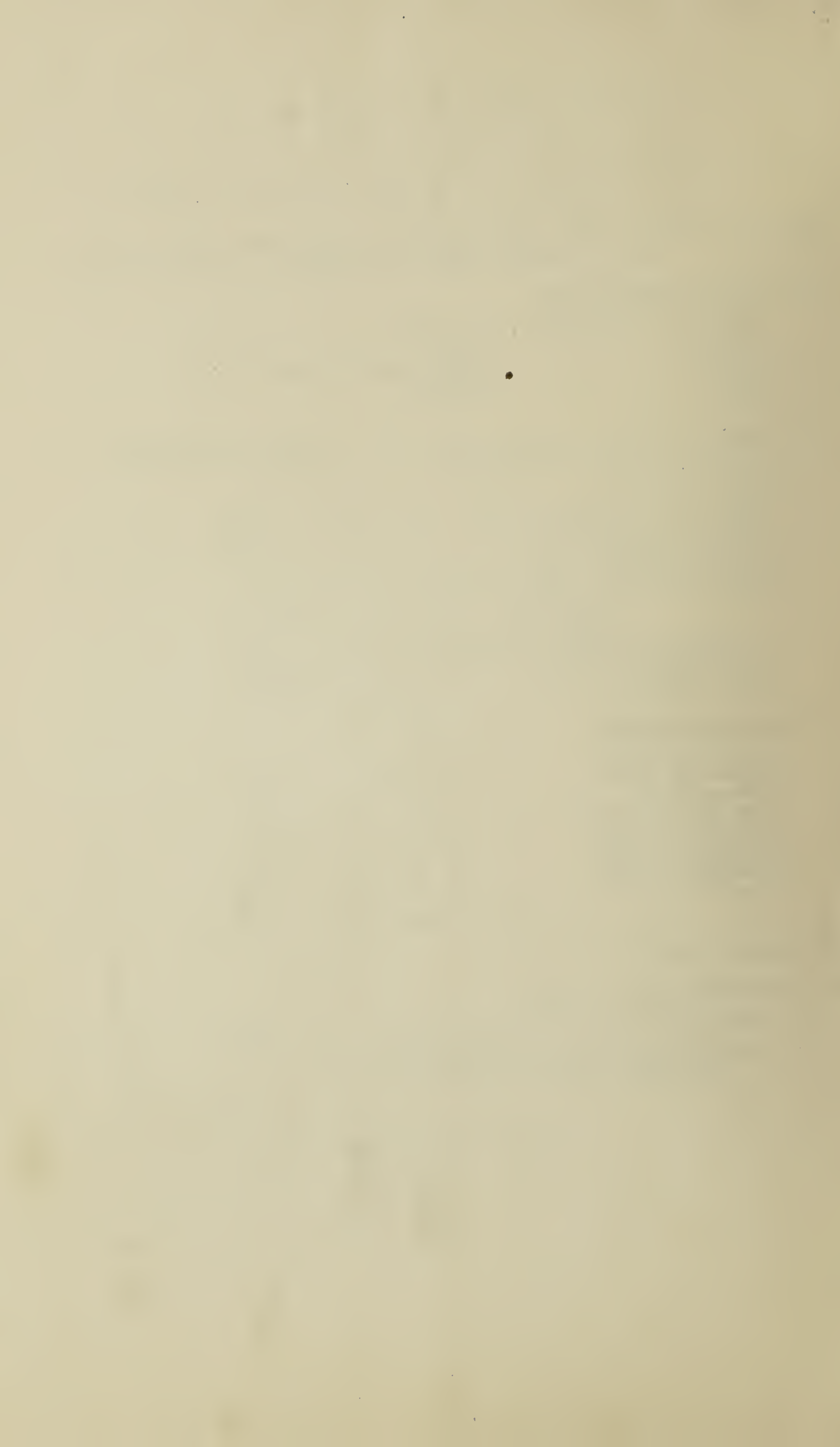
Calcium, as Ca	.....	92.9
Magnesium, as Mg	.....	14.5
Sodium, as Na	.....	37.0
Carbonate, as CO ₃	.....	137.0
Chloride, as Cl	.....	57.0
Sulphate, as SO ₄	.....	51.4
Nitrate, as NO ₃	.....	nil
Iron.	.....	3.10
Iron in solution		0.08

(d) Further data.

(e) Bacteriological Results.

Colonies per ml. on agar at 37°C	None
Coliform organisms, McConkey 2 days at 37°C. Absent in 100 ml.	

(Signed) W. Lincoln Sutton.



W. Lincoln Sutton, F.R.I.C.
Public Analyst for the Counties
of Norfolk and Suffolk.

Norfolk & Suffolk County Laboratories,
Redwell Street,
Norwich.

13th May, 1948.

CERTIFICATE OF ANALYSIS OF WATER.

Sample received from North Walsham U.D.C. per Mr. W. Morris, Surveyor.

No. 121443 ZZ

Mark or seal "Water as abstracted (raw) 12th April 1948"

(The Chemical results are stated in parts per million)

Total solids in solution.	Nitrogen, Ammoniacal, Albuminoid.	Chlorine in Chlorides	Nitric Nitrogen as N	Nitrous Nitrogen.	Oxygen absorbed from Permanganate	Hardness (Soap Test) Total	Bacteriological Results Colonies Bacillus per ml. on coli agar at Absent 37°C in	Physical Characters		
	0.08	0.008	57.0	nil	nil	4 hours at 80°F. to follow	248.6	none	1.00 ml.	Small rusty sediment, Free Carbon dioxide as CO2. 23.1 Iron in solution 0.08

(Signed) W. Lincoln Sutton.

